

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN**

June 2, 2004

Immediately following Committee on Finance

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll. There were thirteen Aldermen present.

Present: Aldermen Roy, Gatsas, Sysyn, Osborne, Porter, O’Neil, Lopez,
Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Thibault, Forest

Absent: Alderman Guinta

A report of the Committee on Finance was presented recommending that:

“ ‘A Resolution Raising Monies and Making Appropriations for the Fiscal
Year 2005’ as amended to \$112,806,584.”

ought to pass and layover.

Alderman Roy moved to accept the report of the committee. Alderman Forest duly seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Aldermen Gatsas, Osborne and Garrity voted nay. Aldermen Sysyn, Porter, O’Neil, Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Smith, Thibault, Forest, and Roy voted yea. Alderman Guinta was absent. The motion carried.

A second report of the Committee on Finance was presented recommending that:

“A Resolution appropriating to the Manchester Aggregation Program the sum
of \$834,682 from Aggregation Fees for the Fiscal Year 2005.”

ought to pass and layover.

Alderman Thibault moved to accept the second report of the Committee on Finance. Alderman Osborne duly seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Aldermen Gatsas, Porter, Garrity, Smith and Forest voted nay. Aldermen Sysyn, Osborne, O’Neil, Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Thibault and Roy voted year. Alderman Guinta was absent. The motion carried.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated at the Finance Committee meeting there was discussion also of the proposed Management Strategy and based on that you could entertain a motion to adopt that strategy because it was indicated when the resolution was presented for layover.

On motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Lopez, it was voted to adopt items 1 through 6 of the proposed Management Strategy as submitted by Alderman Shea, on behalf of the Board of Aldermen in a communication to the Committee on Finance dated June 2, 2004.

OTHER BUSINESS

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated the other item would be the Manchester Transit Authority Resolution which is currently tabled.

“A Resolution appropriating to the Manchester Transit Authority the sum of \$1,061,785 for the Fiscal Year 2005.”

On motion of Alderman DeVries, duly seconded by Alderman Sysyn, it was voted to remove the Resolution from the table for discussion.

On motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman Lopez, it was voted that the Resolution be read by title only, and it was so done.

Alderman Roy moved to amend the Resolution by reducing it by \$50,000 for a new total of \$1,011,785. Alderman DeVries duly seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Aldermen Gatsas, and Garrity voted nay. Aldermen Sysyn, Osborne, Porter, O’Neil, Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Smith, Thibault, Forest and Roy voted yea. Alderman Guinta was absent. The motion carried.

Alderman O’Neil moved that the Resolution pass and be enrolled as amended. Alderman Thibault duly seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Aldermen Gatsas, Garrity voted nay. Aldermen Sysyn, Osborne, Porter, O’Neil, Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Smith, Thibault, Forest and Roy voted yea. Alderman Guinta was absent. The motion carried.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated based on the budget that was distributed earlier in the Finance Committee it is now laying on the table. We were given a resolution to present to the Board regarding additional vehicle registration permit.

“Resolution Adopting the provisions of RSA 261:154 Additional Fees for Registration Permits.”

On motion of Alderman Roy, duly seconded by Alderman Thibault, it was voted that the Resolution be read by title only and it was so done.

Alderman Lopez moved to adopt the Resolution. Alderman Shea duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Gatsas stated I guess during the budget process if we talk about what the Deputy Finance Officer discussed that it could be an 8.45% rate increase on the taxes. Now, we're looking to charge a vehicle charge to taxpayers and non-taxpayers. I think that this kind of stretches a little bit too far going after the pockets of people that are having a real difficult time in this city.

Mayor Baines called for a vote on the motion to adopt the Resolution. The motion carried with Aldermen Gatsas and Garrity being duly recorded as opposed.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated can I just clarify that the intent is to come back on Tuesday evening next week, so we would notify members that we will move all of the committee meetings scheduled for next week.

Alderman Shea stated I probably was amiss before in not mentioning before that during the budget process we did receive excellent cooperation from your office and Seth Wall and also I can't speak highly enough of Randy Sherman and also Kevin Clougherty they were very helpful, your Honor. I didn't mean to overlook them, but I guess in my exuberance to praise fellow colleagues and all I did overlook them.

Mayor Baines stated I do want to make some very, very brief comments. First of all, I want to express my appreciation for the hard work done by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. I can honestly say that the five years that I've been Mayor and a close observer of the workings of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen over the years, I think this is the most involved, most engaged that I have seen the Board collectively in the budget process. Many of us sat through meetings where numbers would appear at the last minute, there wasn't a lot of discussion, votes would be taken, this was a very, very thorough process. I want to commend Alderman Shea for his leadership and the close working relationship that we've developed through this process, I think that bodes well for the city and I want to thank you very much personally and I've commended him in front of department heads the other day as well and the work that Alderman Lopez did and also Alderman O'Neil as Vice-Chairman of the Finance Committee. This process really worked extremely well. My office was very proud to work and to cooperate with you on this effort which really puts the control management part of the operation of city government where it belongs as we navigate through this very, very challenging time. But, I want to make it very, very clear to all of you and I think I've demonstrated that to the people of the community that we're going to fight what happened in Concord vigorously and I know there were meetings today with our City Solicitor and other lawyers involved seeing what the next step will be. But, what happened in Concord was wrong and I have to commend Alderman Gatsas specifically for consistently pointing out about the process that was used in Concord and his championing of that it should have been done the right way with an open process, with public hearings, public input instead of being done behind closed doors and coming up with a formula that's just not fair

to the school children of the State of New Hampshire and this isn't just about Manchester, this is about government being open and responsive to the people of the State and the lack of leadership that's been demonstrated up in Concord on this issue and simply saying this is wrong, we need to do it over again and there needs to be another Committee of Conference and the governor can lead and come up with a fairer solution is not taking place. Now, what they've done and things are happening with rewriting, words in paragraphs in a bill which people in Concord have said has never been done before. People that have been in Concord a long time said they've never seen what's going on in Concord...ever been done before. It is right for a legal challenge and if we have an opportunity...we're working with Dean Eggert from the School District has been doing a lot of research, there's some specific concerns about Special Education, they're not funding Special Education which could subject the State of New Hampshire to some very significant finds, but more important than that is they are abrogating the entire legislative process with what has happened in Concord. So, we're going to be out there fighting on this issue and I appreciate the support in this resolution that came forward from the Board today. And, finally, I'd like to echo the praise that's been given to the Finance office. There is a well-worn path into the Finance office from the Mayor's office and we're all a little bit tired about being down there, but there's been a lot of hard work done by the Finance office and Randy Sherman is at the center of this and he is truly to be commended for working the numbers and being an integral part of putting together the Mayor's budget with the cooperation in support and leadership of Kevin Clougherty and others to forge what we've done here today. Everybody knew at the beginning of the process when the Mayor presented the budget despite what you read in the local media that was the beginning of the process and numbers changed, the tax base changed, other revenue projections changed, we got a break on insurance, things worked to the advantage of the City and we were working to really carve that tax rate down until the State did what they did. What has happened at the State is unacceptable and that's a responsibility of the State but I appreciate the strong statement...if the State won't meet its responsibilities to educating the kids of Manchester we're going to meet those responsibilities. We're also going to meet our responsibilities to Police, Fire, and first responders and other vital city services. And, finally, I want to single out the work of Seth. I have wonderful, wonderful staff and he's truly one of the finest individuals I've ever worked with in city government...I've been blessed with a great staff and he has worked very, very hard and he's worked cooperatively with the Aldermen involved with this project and I want to publicly commend him for a job well-done.

This being a special meeting of the Board, no further business was presented and on motion of Alderman Smith, duly seconded by Alderman Lopez, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk